IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Original) A method of managing a switch, comprising:

installing the switch having a plurality of processor elements;

installing an operating system on each processor element;

creating a system virtual router;

configuring the processor elements from the system virtual router.

2.   (Original) An article comprising a computer readable medium having instructions thereon, wherein the instructions, when executed in a computer, create a system for executing the method of claim 1.

3.   (Currently Amended) A switch management system, comprising:

an object manager; ~~and~~

a distributed management layer, wherein the object manager communicates with objects through the distributed management layer[[.]], the object manager operable to configure the objects into virtual private networks and virtual routers by creating and deleting objects.

4.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein configuring the processor elements includes creating a virtual router from multiple processor elements on multiple blades.

5.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein configuring the processor elements includes:

adding new processor elements; and

using a distributed management layer to group processor elements into at least one virtual router.

6.   (New) The method of claim 5, wherein using a distributed management layer to group processor elements into at least one virtual router includes:

requesting a global object manager to create a virtual router from a group of processor elements;

requesting a local object manager to group the processor elements;

activating processor elements of the group; and

generating a status message that the virtual router is created.

7.   (New) The method of claim 6, wherein activating processor elements of the group includes changing a state machine for a processor element to an active state.

8.   (New) The method of claim 5, wherein using distributed management layer to group processor elements includes adding object identifiers to a global object database.

9.   (New) The method of claim 4, wherein creating a virtual router includes sending a request to create a customer virtual router.

10.   (New) The system of claim 3, wherein the object manager includes:

an object manager controller in communication with a configuration manager, the object manager controller to manage configurations of virtual routers and virtual private networks;

a global object manager to manage global objects; and

a local object manager to manage local objects, to route control information between address spaces based on locations of the local objects and to communicate with the local objects.

11.   (New) The system of claim 10, wherein the local object manager includes a state machine for each local object, the local object manager to communicate a state change to a local object to initiate an action associated with the state change.

12.   (New) The system of claim 10, wherein the distributed management layer includes a distributed message layer, the distributed message layer including channels for data and control messages.

13.   (New) The system of claim 12, wherein the distributed message layer includes a predefined channel for communications between the global object manager and the local object manager.

14.   (New) A switch management system, comprising:

an object manager;

a distributed management layer, wherein the object manager communicates with objects through the distributed management layer; and

system blades including at least one control blade, wherein the objects are located on blades.

15.   (New) The system of claim 14, wherein the at least one control blade includes a plurality of control blades including a master control blade, the master control blade including management information, and at least one standby control blade, the at least one standby control blade including a replica of the management information.

16.   (New) The system of claim 14, wherein the type of blades are selected from a set including control blades, access blades, trunk blades and processor blades.

17.   (New) A method comprising:

configuring a switch management system;

managing the system with an object manager over a distributed management layer;

tracking management and configuration data with an object manager global database residing on a master control blade; and

storing a replica of the object manager global database on a standby control blade.

18.   (New) The method of claim 4, wherein tracking management and configuration data with an object manager global database includes updating the global database with data from distributed local databases.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111
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19.   (New) The method of claim 4, wherein storing a replica of the object manager global database on a standby control blade includes maintaining consistency between the global data base and the standby global database.

20.   (New) the method of claim 4, wherein maintaining consistency between the global and standby databases includes updating a standby database when there is a change in configuration of objects involved in message passing communications.